

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the remarks herewith.

Claims 1-17 are pending.

Applicant submits that the effective priority date of the present application is June 13, 2000.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051909 to Keith.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-17 have not been properly rejected. U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051909 to Keith, which was used as basis of rejection for claims 1-17, is not prior art. As stated above the effective filing date for the present invention is June 13, 2000.

U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051909 to Keith's filing date is March 8, 2001, and is a Continuation-in-part of 09/546,031 which has a filing date of April 10, 2000.

Applicant submits that the subject matter relied upon in U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051909 to Keith was not present in the parent document, and therefore has an effective filing date is March 8, 2001.

Therefore, Applicant submits that U.S. Publication No. 2001/0051909 to Keith has a filing date after June 13, 2000 and cannot be relied upon as prior art of the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the above rejection is not valid, and therefore, claims 1-17 are allowable.

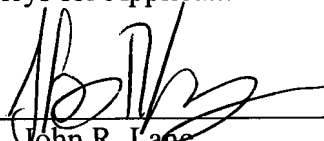
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Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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